

The Reciprocal Education Approach (REA) Instructions for First Nations and School Boards

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Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide additional information and guidelines about the Reciprocal Education Approach (REA) to ensure smooth and consistent implementation throughout the province. The REA will help change the educational landscape for First Nation students and families by improving access, removing barriers and strengthening parent and guardian choice for First Nation students transitioning between schools of school boards and First Nation schools in Ontario.

This guide is intended for use by First Nations, school board officials and school administrators.

A fact sheet for parents, guardians, families and students is available [online](#).

Overview

The REA is a new framework designed to improve access to education for First Nation students by eliminating the need for First Nations and school boards to negotiate and enter into an agreement for the base tuition fee.

When requirements and eligibility criteria are met, the REA requires that school boards:

- a) Admit First Nation students, who ordinarily reside on-reserve, to a school of the school board; and
- b) Provide funding support for students who would ordinarily be eligible to be pupils of the board to attend a First Nation school.

For school board obligations to be initiated, First Nations and students must:

- a) Meet certain eligibility criteria; and
- b) Submit *written notice* for each student, to the school of the school board the student intends to register at or is currently registered at¹.

The REA sets out a reciprocal base fee which school boards will be required to pay or charge First Nation entities, which is dependent upon where the student attends school.

School boards and First Nation entities may negotiate additional services and supports in addition to the base fee. Policies and processes have been established to support a consistent implementation of the REA, including standardized payment and reporting processes.

¹ The *Education Act* provides that a school board must receive **written notice** from one of the entities noted in Table 1: *Summary of Eligibility* and the student's parent/guardian or the student, where the student is 16 or 17 and withdrawn from parental control or is 18 years of age or older.

How the REA was Developed

In the Fall of 2017, in response to concerns from First Nations and school boards on the provisions in the *Education Act* regarding ESAs and RESAs, the Ministry of Education (ministry) invited First Nation Political Territorial Organizations, Independent First Nations, the Chiefs of Ontario, the Kinoomaadziwin Education Board and school board associations to participate in a working group.

In May 2018, amendments to the *Education Act* received Royal Assent. These amendments set out the legislative framework for the REA. In February 2019, the working group was reconvened to work on the implementation considerations of the REA. Regulations setting out implementation details were developed based on the input of the Working Group. The REA is supported by sections 185 and 188 of the *Education Act* and O. Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach) which will come into force on September 1, 2019.

How to Use this Guide

This guide is organized into three main sections:

Section 1: Information for First Nations. This section provides detailed instructions to support First Nation organizations, communities and schools. It summarizes the steps that First Nations would take to support students' admissions, to ensure eligibility of their schools and initiate payment processes.

Section 2: Information for School Boards. This section provides detailed instructions and processes specific to school boards and schools.

Section 3: Information for All. This section provides information for First Nations and school boards to support the implementation of the REA including: negotiation of additional supports and services; late payments and arrears; existing agreements; and dispute resolution.

SECTION 1: INFORMATION FOR FIRST NATIONS

A. Ensuring Eligibility

This section outlines eligibility requirements set out in the *Education Act* and related regulations required to initiate the REA.

This section includes:

- ✓ Eligibility requirements for entities that operate First Nation schools
- ✓ Eligibility requirements for First Nation schools
- ✓ Information and timelines for providing documentation that demonstrates school eligibility
- ✓ Eligibility criteria for students who wish to attend a First Nation school under the REA
- ✓ Eligibility criteria for students who wish to attend a school of a school board under the REA

*Note that First Nation school eligibility is not applicable where a student wishes to attend, a school of a school board under the REA.

Table 1: Summary of Eligibility

Entities that operate First Nation schools (“First Nation entities”)

The Education Act specifies the entities that:

- operate schools which may participate in the REA (i.e. an “eligible school”), and
- must provide written notice to initiate the REA process (for a student to attend a First Nation school or a school of a school board).

These entities are:

- a band,
- a council of a band,
- the Crown in right of Canada, or
- an education authority that is authorized by a band, a council of a band, or the Crown in right of Canada

(hereafter referred to as “First Nation entity(ies)”)

Eligibility Requirements for First Nation Schools

Note: “First Nation schools” is a term used in this document to describe schools which are operated by a First Nation entity (i.e. one of the entities listed above) and are located on- or off-reserve.

“Eligible schools” refers to First Nation schools which meet the requirements and provide supporting documentation (if applicable) to the ministry below.

Requirement(s)	<p>1) The school must be operated by a First Nation entity, as described above.</p> <p>2) The school does not charge tuition to students.²</p>
Supporting Documentation:	<p>1) Band councils will be required to submit a resolution from the council of the band. Tribal Councils and Education Authorities must be incorporated and will be required to submit a board resolution or declaration. This documentation must state that the First Nation entity providing the documentation operates the school and must include the name of the school and the legal and operating name (if the operating name is different than the legal name) of the entity.</p> <p>2) An attestation that confirms the school does not charge tuition to students for elements of a classroom education that are required by, and generally common to, all students.</p> <p><i>Required documentation must be submitted to the Indigenous Education Office of the Ministry of Education at IEO@ontario.ca (See below for pertinent timelines).</i></p>
Confirmation of Eligibility	<p>Upon receipt, the ministry will review the documentation to confirm the requirements have been met. This is a one-time requirement for each school.</p> <p>Once eligibility has been confirmed, schools will be included on a list of eligible schools on the ministry’s website.</p> <p>First Nation entities are required to provide the ministry with notification if an eligible First Nation school is dissolved or if they no longer meet the eligibility requirements (e.g., there is a change to the tuition fee policy).</p>

² Schools that charge tuition fees for students to other public entities (e.g., provincially funded school boards, the federal government or other First Nations), and fees for room and board would still satisfy this requirement.

Information and Timelines for Providing Supporting Documentation of School Eligibility for the 2019-20 School Year

- If the school is listed in Table 1 of section 3 of O. Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach) made under the *Education Act*, the school is not required to provide the above-listed supporting documentation to the ministry.
- If the school is listed in Table 2 of section 3 of O. Reg. 261/19, the school must provide the supporting documentation to the ministry by March 30, 2020 to be eligible for funding for the 2019-20 school year and each subsequent school year.
- If the school is not listed in Table 1 or 2 of section 3 of O. Reg. 261/19, the supporting documentation must be provided to receive funding.
 - To be eligible to receive the *preliminary payment* for the 2019-20 school year, the supporting documentation must be received by the ministry no later than September 30, 2019.
 - To be eligible to receive payment for the 2019-20 school year, please ensure the supporting documentation is received by the ministry no later than October 30, 2019.
- Note: If documentation is submitted later than these timelines, retroactive payments may be possible for 2019-20, only, provided the documentation is submitted to the ministry no later than March 30, 2020, and all other requirements, including payment process requirements, have been met (e.g., Student Enrolment Lists for the October 31 and March 31 count dates).
 - Refer to Section 1, Part C: *Payment and Fees Charged to First Nation Entities for Students* for more information on payment processes, documentation requirements and timelines.

Table 2: Summary of Eligibility	
Student eligibility criteria for students who attend, or wish to attend, a First Nation school	
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pupil of the board, or • A person under the age of 21 years old³, who is a resident of Ontario, and who is eligible to be a pupil of the board⁴ in accordance with O.Reg.261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach).
Supporting Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting documentation will be required to demonstrate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Right to permanently remain in Canada (e.g., band membership, citizenship status); and ○ Home address (i.e., a resident of Ontario).
Confirmation of Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For each student, school boards will be required to confirm eligibility requirements at the time of registration of the student with a school of the school board. • A valid written notice form is required to initiate the REA.

Table 3: Summary of Eligibility	
Student eligibility criteria for students who ordinarily reside on-reserve and attend, or wish to attend, a school of a school board	
Requirement(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The student is eligible to receive funding for elementary or secondary education from the federal government, a band, a council of a band, or an education authority that is authorized by a band or a council of a band or by the federal government; and 2. The student ordinarily resides on a reserve within the meaning of the <i>Indian Act</i> (Canada).
Supporting Documentation	The eligibility requirements noted above must be demonstrated in the written notice form delivered to the school of a school board.
Confirmation of Eligibility	First Nation entities are responsible for confirming student eligibility criteria on the written notice form.

³ For the purposes of student eligibility for the REA, a person who turns 21 years old on or after January 1 of a given school year is deemed to be under 21 years of age.

⁴ For the purposes of the REA, the parent/guardian is not required to live within the catchment area of the school board for the pupil to be admitted as a pupil of the board.

B. Admission of Students Under the REA

This section outlines what is required to initiate school board obligations under the REA.

This section outlines:

- ✓ The written notice process, including:
 - Completing and submitting the written notice forms
 - Registering with a school of a school board

Note: Admission of eligible students to First Nation schools is subject to the First Nation school's admission policies.

The Written Notice Process

The purpose of the written notice is to initiate a school board's obligation to support an eligible student's admission to a First Nation school or to admit an eligible student to a school of a school board. Provided the requirements have all been met, the school board will be required to:

- Ensure the student is registered with the school board, and
- Provide or charge the base fee funding to the First Nation entity for the student.

Written notice must be provided for each student as a one-time requirement. Generally, this means that the written notice will not be required in future years for that student, unless the participating First Nation entity changes, or the student changes First Nation schools or moves to a new school board.

A template for written notice that may be used is on the ministry's [website](#).

Two written notice templates are available. Ensure you select the correct form. This will be either:

- The form for students wishing to attend a First Nation school, or
- The form for students wishing to attend a school of a school board.

Completing and Submitting the Written Notice

Both the First Nation entity⁵ **and** the parent, guardian⁶, or the student themselves⁷ must complete all mandatory sections of the written notice.

- Parents, guardians and/or students are advised to work with their Band, Tribal Council, Education Authority or the federal government, to complete these forms.

Written notice must be delivered by the First Nation entity **or** the parent, guardian, or student to the school of a school board at which the student is currently registered.

For a student residing off-reserve wishing to attend a First Nation school:

- Written notice must be delivered by a First Nation entity that operates the First Nation school that the student wishes to attend and the parent, guardian or student themselves (as above).
- If the student is not currently registered at a school of a school board, the written notice form must be delivered to a school of the school board in whose catchment area the student currently resides.
- If the student does not reside within the catchment area of **any** board, written notice must be delivered to a school of a school board that is near by. Where there are coterminous school boards (boards whose catchment areas overlap), the notice should be delivered to the English-language public school board.
- See information regarding registering at a school of a school board below.

For a student residing on-reserve wishing to attend a school of a school board:

- Written notice must be delivered by a First Nation entity **and** the parent, guardian or student themselves (as above).
- If the student is not currently registered with a school of a school board, see information below regarding registering at a school of a school board.
- Please note that the REA ensures admission to a school of the board but does not guarantee admission to a specific school (i.e., admission to a specific school may be subject to space availability).

The written notice form may be submitted by post mail, electronic mail, facsimile (fax) or hand-delivered.

- It is the responsibility of the First Nation entity or parent, guardian, or student to ensure the school receives the written notice form. If you have not received confirmation within 10 business days, follow up directly with the school to confirm receipt of the form.

⁵ Refer to Section 1, Table 1: Ensuring Eligibility for the list of First Nation entities which may provide notice.

⁶ Guardian, in this context, means a person defined in section 18 of the *Education Act*. This is either a legal guardian (other than a parent) or anyone who has received into their care or residence, a person of compulsory school age (aged 6 to 18).

⁷ The student may provide written notice if they are 16 or 17 and have withdrawn from parental control or 18 years of age or older.

The written notice may be delivered to the school of the board at any time during the school year. Outside of the school year, please deliver the written notice to the school board responsible for the school. Refer to Section 1, Part C: *Payment and Fees Charged to First Nation Entities for Students* for information about how students will be funded based on admission timelines.

Registering with a School of a School Board

For a student residing off-reserve wishing to attend a First Nation school:

- The student must register at a school of a school board to ensure funding is provided by the school board to the First Nation entity operating the First Nation school.
- If the student is not currently registered as a student with a school of a school board, the student should be advised to register at the school of the school board where the written notice form was delivered. The written notice can also be submitted at the time of registration.
- For a student to be eligible to register with a school of a school board, the parent, guardian or the student must demonstrate that the student is eligible to be enrolled as a pupil of the board.
- The student and their parent or guardian will be required to provide documentation demonstrating the following:
 - Their right to permanently remain in Canada (e.g., band membership, citizenship status); and
 - Their home address(es).
- A student who is currently enrolled at a school of a school board prior to delivering the written notice, is only required to deliver a complete written notice to the school in which the student is currently enrolled and no further action is required. The student may begin attending the First Nation school, subject to that First Nation school's admission policies.

For a student residing on reserve wishing to attend a school of a school board:

- If the student is not already registered with a school of a school board, the student must register at the school where the written notice form was delivered.
- The student and their parent or guardian will be required to provide documentation supporting the student's enrolment at the school of the school board. Please work with the school administrator regarding the school board's admission policies.
- A student who is currently registered or attending a school of a school board is only required to deliver a valid written notice form to the school in which the student is currently registered or attending and will require no further action.

C. Payment and Fees Charged to First Nation Entities for Students

This section outlines how payment and fees charged to First Nation entities will be calculated and processed.

This section includes:

- ✓ School board obligations
- ✓ Calculation of the base fee
- ✓ Payment processes
- ✓ Student Enrolment List
- ✓ Submission of the Student Enrolment List
- ✓ Determining full-time equivalency (FTE) status
- ✓ Payment timelines for First Nation entities and/or schools

School Board Obligations

Under the REA, provided eligibility requirements are met and valid written notice has been received, a school board is required to register the student and provide base fee funding for each student attending an eligible First Nation school, or to admit the student and charge the base fee to the First Nation entity for each student attending a school of a school board.

Calculation of the Base Fee

The amount of funding that a school board is required charge or provide for each student attending a First Nation school or school of a school board, respectively, under the REA is based on a calculation unique to each school board called the “base fee”. This calculation is a standardized calculation, based on a funding formula which is updated annually by the ministry and is set out in regulation. School boards do not determine the base fee. For further detail, see O.Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach) and O.Reg. 278/19 (Calculation of Fees for Pupils for the 2019-2020 School Board Fiscal Year).

The base fee that a school board is required to pay a First Nation entity that operates the First Nation school a student is attending under REA is the same amount that the same school board is required to charge the First Nation entity for a First Nation student attending a school of a school board.

The base fee calculation is derived from the funding that the province provides to school boards each year called the Grants for Student Needs (GSN). The GSN is a funding formula based several factors and is intended to provide equitable levels of funding for students across the province. The base fee is based on the same principles as the GSN and, where applicable, the same funding formulas.

The base fee amount is:

- Unique to each school board;
 - The base fee calculation is based on funding for the school board to whom written notice has been provided.
 - In the case where a student wishes to attend a First Nation school, generally, this will be the school board in which the student is currently enrolled. If the student is not currently enrolled in a school of a school board, it would be,
 - The school board in whose catchment area the student and their parent or guardian currently reside; or
 - Where the student and their parent or guardian do not reside in any school board's catchment area, a nearby board.
- A per pupil amount, which will be the same for each full-time student registered with any given school board; and
- A different amount each year, as school board enrolment and other circumstances change and as the province updates the funding formula.

A list of each school board's base fee, based on their estimates, will be posted on the ministry's website.

Please see Appendix A for details on the GSN allocations that are included, partially included or excluded from the REA base fee calculation.

Note: Where a student is attending, or wishes to attend, a First Nation school, an agreement may be negotiated for the provision of additional services and supports for which funding may be provided in addition to the base fee. Where a student is attending, or wishes to attend, a school of a school board, O.Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach) specifies the additional services and supports for which a board may charge a First Nation entity in addition to the base fee. Refer to Section 3: *Information for All* for more information.

Payment Processes

To help ensure transparent processes for all parties, the ministry has established a standardized payment process for flowing funds and charging fees to First Nation entities.

To support the funding flowed and fees charged to First Nation entities, students attending First Nation schools and schools of school boards will be identified on an ongoing basis each year. This will help initiate the payment process and will be based on student enrolment on two dates in each school year, referred to as "count dates".

Student Enrolment List

Entities operating First Nation schools (and/or First Nation schools) and school boards will be required to provide a list of students attending their respective schools under the REA as documentation that students are active as of the count dates (October 31 and March 31) of a given school year.

This Student Enrolment List must include the following information:

- The student's surname and first name;
- Student's date of birth;
- Grade level;
- Gender;
- Ontario Education Number (OEN) – this is assigned by the school board at the time of the student's registration at the school;
- Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) status based on the student's scheduled time for day school programming (see Table 4: *Determining FTE Status* for calculation details); and
- The name and address of the First Nation school the student is attending.

First Nation schools and school boards are also encouraged to provide student timetables as part of the verification process for funding purposes.

The Student Enrolment List must also meet the following requirements specified below.

Where a student is attending a First Nation school:

- The First Nation school (or First Nation entity operating that school) must submit a Student Enrolment List to each "home" school board. Payments can only be provided for students by the school board at which they are registered. The First Nation entity or First Nation school must identify the students by their "home" school board and include the OEN number assigned to that student.
- The Student Enrolment List must be provided within 30 days following the two count dates in each school year (October 31 and March 31) for funding to be provided on schedule.
 - Late submissions will be processed as part of the subsequent payment cycle but limited to one late cycle. This means that if valid documentation to support the second payment is submitted past the deadline specified in Table 5: *Summary of Documentation Requirements and Payment Timelines Impacting First Nation Entities*, the payment will be processed as part of the third payment cycle. However, if documentation from the second payment cycle is not received in time for the third payment cycle, then payments associated with the second payment cycle would be ineligible.
- The list must include an attestation from the First Nation entity or First Nation school confirming the data accurately reflects the active students at the time of the count date.

Where a student is attending a school of a school board:

- School boards must submit one consolidated Student Enrolment List to each First Nation entity within 30 days following the two count dates in each school year (October 31 and March 31).
 - This means that First Nations will be charged for students attending a school of a school board twice per school year – by November 30 and April 30 each year.
 - Boards will be asked to set payment deadlines of 90 days within submission of the Student Enrolment Lists.
- The list must include an attestation by the Director of Education of the school board confirming that the list accurately reflects the active pupils at the time of the count date.

Where a student is attending a school of the school board under the REA, the school board may provide other documentation (e.g., copy of the written notice form, confirmation of the student's status) to the First Nation entity as requested, and in accordance with the school board's policies and its obligations under relevant legislation, including the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The Student Enrolment List template is provided as Appendix D for reference.

Submission of the Student Enrolment List

Where a student is attending a First Nation school:

- The First Nation school (or First Nation entity operating that school) must send the Student Enrolment List to the attention of both the Supervisory Officer responsible for Indigenous Education and the Business Supervisory Officer at the school board office and may be submitted electronically or by post.
- Include payment information with the submission of your Student Enrolment List so that school boards will be able to make payments per the payment schedule timeline.

Where a student is attending a school of a school board:

- School boards are directed to send the Student Enrolment List to the First Nation entity named on the written notice form submitted for each student, and to the attention of the contact named on the same form.
- The Student Enrolment List must include payment information with the submission so that First Nation entities will be able to arrange payment accordingly.
- To make alternative arrangements for the submission of documentation or payment, First Nation entities are asked to work directly with the school boards. The First Nation entity is responsible for reviewing the submission and validating the components to their satisfaction.

Table 4: Determining Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Status

Where a student is attending a First Nation school

If the number of minutes of instruction for which the student is enrolled is equal to or greater than an average of 210 minutes per day, the FTE status for that student is deemed to be a full-time student for that count date (i.e. the FTE status equals 1 on October 31 or March 31 of a given school year).

If the number of minutes of instruction for which the student is enrolled is less than an average of 210 minutes per day, the FTE status is determined by taking the number of minutes of instruction for which the student is enrolled in a day school program in a First Nation school on October 31 or March 31 of each school year and dividing that figure by 300 (which is the minimum number of instructional minutes that school boards are required to provide to their students).

The student's FTE Status is the average of the FTE status determined on both the October 31 and March 31 count dates of a given school year.

Where a student is attending a school of a school board

Following the provincial guidelines, as outlined in the annual Calculation of Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) regulation, generally, if the number of minutes of instruction for which the student is enrolled is equal to or greater than an average of 210 minutes per day⁸, the FTE status for that student is deemed to be a full-time student (i.e. the FTE status equals 1).

If the number of minutes of instruction for which the student is enrolled is less than an average of 210 minutes per day, the FTE status is determined by taking the number of minutes for which the student is enrolled in a day school program in a provincially funded school in a cycle, divided by the product of 300 minutes multiplied by the number of days in the cycle⁹ on October 31 or March 31 of each school year.

⁸ If a student is a supervised alternative learning pupil, then the student is only required to be enrolled in classroom instruction for an average of 70 minutes or more per day to be considered a full-time student.

⁹ Cycle means the number of school days for which a schedule of classes in a school continues before the schedule is repeated.

Payment Timelines for First Nation Entities and/or Schools

The table below provides a summary of the payment timelines and associated documentation requirements for First Nation entities and/or First Nation schools.

Important Note: Funding can only be provided for students and schools with documented eligibility requirements in place. Refer to Section 1, Part A: *Ensuring Eligibility* for details on how students and schools must document eligibility and important timelines impacting payments.

Table 5: Summary of Documentation Requirements and Payment Timelines Impacting First Nation Entities			
Payment Description	First Nation Entity and/or First Nation School Documentation Requirements	Documentation Due Date	Payment Schedule* (from school boards to First Nation entities)
<p>Preliminary payment: based on estimated registration of eligible REA students at each First Nation School</p> <p>Pro-rated payment for students will be provided covering the period of September 1 to November 30</p>	<p>Completed written notices provided to a school of a school board and/or number of students on existing RESAs</p>	<p>For the purposes of the preliminary payment, only those written notices received no later than September 30, 2019 will be counted.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Written notices may be submitted and processed at any time during the school year.</p>	<p>First week of December</p>
<p>Second payment: based on <i>total</i> student FTE at each First Nation school at the October 31 count date.</p> <p>Pro-rated payment for students will be provided covering the period of December 1 to March 31.</p>	<p>Student Enrolment List based on the October 31 count date</p>	<p>Due to school boards by November 30 each year</p> <p>If the submission is received late, the school board will process the documentation as</p>	<p>First week of March</p>

Table 5: Summary of Documentation Requirements and Payment Timelines Impacting First Nation Entities			
Payment Description	First Nation Entity and/or First Nation School Documentation Requirements	Documentation Due Date	Payment Schedule* (from school boards to First Nation entities)
A reconciliation of the preliminary payment will be made at this time – adjustments will be based on the total student FTE reported at the October 31.		part of the next payment cycle.	
<p>Final payment: based on total student FTE at each First Nation school at the March 31 count date.</p> <p>Pro-rated payment for students will be provided covering the period of April 1 to June 30.</p> <p>A reconciliation of the estimated payment for February and March will be made at this time, adjustments will be based on the total student FTE reported at March 31.</p>	Student Enrolment List based on the March 31 count date	<p>Due to school boards by April 30 each year</p> <p>If the submission is received late, the school board will process the documentation as part of the next payment cycle (i.e., payment will not be provided until the next school year).</p>	First week of August

*This payment schedule reflects the minimum payment school boards are required to make to First Nation entities based on documentation available at the time of processing.

SECTION 2: INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL BOARDS

A. Ensuring Eligibility

This section outlines eligibility requirements set out in the *Education Act* and related regulations and the school board's responsibilities regarding the REA.

This section includes:

- ✓ Eligibility requirements for entities that operate First Nation schools
- ✓ Eligibility requirements for First Nation schools
- ✓ Eligibility criteria for students who ordinarily reside off-reserve and who attend, or wish to attend a First Nation school
- ✓ Eligibility criteria for students who ordinarily reside on-reserve and who attend, or wish to attend, a school of a school board

*Note that First Nation school eligibility is not applicable where a student who ordinarily resides on-reserve attends, or wishes to attend, a school of a school board under the REA.

For each First Nation entity and school, confirmation of eligibility is a one-time requirement.

Table 1: Summary of Eligibility

Entities that operate First Nation schools and from whom the school board must receive written notice (“First Nation entities”)

The *Education Act* specifies the entities that:

- operate schools which may participate in the REA (i.e. an “eligible school”), and
- must provide written notice to initiate the REA process (for a student to attend a First Nation school or a school of a school board).

These entities are:

- a band,
- a council of a band,
- the Crown in right of Canada, or
- an education authority that is authorized by a band, a council of a band, or the Crown in right of Canada

(hereafter referred to as “First Nation entity(ies)”)

Table 1: Summary of Eligibility	
Eligibility Requirements for First Nation Schools	
Requirement(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The school must be operated by a First Nation entity, as referred to above. 2) The school does not charge tuition to students for elements of a classroom education that are required by, and generally common to, all students.
Confirming Eligibility	A list of eligible schools will be published on the ministry website . School boards must verify that the school is on the list of eligible schools for the REA. If the school cannot be verified, contact the ministry's Indigenous Education Office.
Eligibility criteria for a student who ordinarily resides off-reserve who attends, or wishes to attend, a First Nation school	
Requirements	<p>Person must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pupil of the board, or • A person under the age of 21 years old¹⁰, who is resident of Ontario, and who is <i>eligible</i> to be a pupil of the board¹¹ (i.e., not an "other pupil").
Confirming Eligibility	School boards must verify that the student is eligible to be registered as a <i>pupil of the board</i> in accordance with the ministry's enrolment policies.
Student eligibility criteria for a student who ordinarily resides on-reserve who attends, or wishes to attend, a school of a school board	
Requirement(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The student is eligible to receive funding for elementary or secondary education from the federal government, a band, a council of a band, or an education authority that is authorized by a band or a council of a band or by the federal government; and 2. The student ordinarily resides on a reserve within the meaning of the <i>Indian Act (Canada)</i>.
Confirming Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These eligibility requirements must be demonstrated in the written notice form delivered to the school of a school board. The First Nation entity will be required to confirm eligibility and residence for funding purposes through these fields in the written notice. • School boards will be expected to register the student's eligibility in accordance with the ministry's enrolment policies.

¹⁰ For the purposes of student eligibility for the REA, a person who turns 21 years old on or after January 1 of a given school year is deemed to be under 21 years of age.

¹¹ For the purposes of the REA, the parent /guardian is not required to live within the catchment area of the school board for the pupil to be admitted as a pupil of the board.

B. Admission of Students Under the REA

This section outlines what is required of school boards under the REA.

This section outlines:

- ✓ The written notice process, including:
 - Validating the written notice forms
 - Registration of students

Note: Admission of eligible students to First Nation schools is subject to the First Nation school's admission policies.

Written Notice Process

The purpose of the written notice is to initiate a school board's obligation to support an eligible student's admission to a First Nation school, or to admit an eligible student to a school of a school board. Provided the requirements have all been met, upon receipt of the written notice, the school board is required to:

- Ensure the student is registered with the school board, and
- Provide or charge the base fee funding to the First Nation entity for the student.

Written notice must be submitted for each student under the REA and is a one-time requirement. Generally, this means the written notice will not be required in future years for that student, unless the First Nation entity that is participating in the REA changes, the student attends another First Nation school, or moves to a new school board.

First Nation entities and parents, guardians, and/or students are to send the written notice to the school of a school board at which the student is currently registered (i.e., as a pupil of the board or is on an existing/expiring ESA) or wishes to attend. If the student is not registered with a school of a school board, the student must register at the school of the school board where the written notice has been or will be delivered.

Written notice may be submitted by post mail, electronic mail, facsimile (fax) or hand-delivered.

Templates of the written notice forms that may be used are available on the ministry's [website](#).

Written notice provided in any format is valid if it includes all the mandatory fields and signatures, including the consent and notice of collection of personal information, as indicated in the template of the written notice form on the ministry's website.

School boards are responsible for ensuring that the consent and notice of collection of personal information in written notice includes contact information for an officer or

employee of the school board who can answer questions about the collection of personal information. School boards are also responsible for making any necessary adjustments to the consent and notice of collection as may be required to comply with their obligations, including any under the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Validating the Written Notice

Upon receiving the written notice, schools must ensure that:

- The correct version of the written notice has been submitted, this will be either:
 - The mandatory content in the form for students wishing to attend a First Nation school; or
 - The mandatory content in the form for students wishing to attend a school of a school board.
- All the mandatory fields for entities and parents, guardians or students, and signatures in the written notice have been completed;
 - Both the First Nation entity¹² and the parent, guardian¹³, or the student themselves¹⁴ have completed the mandatory sections of the written notice.
- Where a student wishes to attend a First Nation school, the school that the student intends to attend is an eligible school (please see Table 1: Summary of Eligibility for a link to the list of eligible schools).
- Where a student wishes to attend a school of a school board, schools are to consider students as eligible for REA in this context if the First Nation entity has signed off on the two student eligibility fields in the written notice, as follows:
 - The above-named pupil is eligible to receive funding from the Crown in right of Canada, or a band, a council of a band, an education authority that is authorized by a band or a council of a band or by the Crown in right of Canada.
 - The above-named pupil ordinarily resides on a reserve within the meaning of the Indian Act (Canada).

Schools are responsible for notifying First Nation entities and parents, guardians and/or students named on the written notice form of any components of the form that are incomplete.

School boards must retain a copy of the written notice forms for auditing purposes for the current school year plus two previous school years.

¹² Refer to Section 2, Table 1: Ensuring Eligibility for a list of First Nation entities that may provide written notice to the school board to initiate the REA.

¹³ Guardian" in this context means a person defined in section 18 of the *Education Act*. This is either a legal guardian (other than a parent), or anyone who has received into their care or residence, a person of compulsory school age.

¹⁴ The student may provide written notice if they are 16 or 17 and have withdrawn from parental control or 18 years of age or older.

Registration of Students

For a student residing off-reserve wishing to attend a First Nation school:

- If a student is not already registered with a school of a school board, the school will need to complete the registration process in accordance with the Ministry of Education’s enrolment policies set out in the *Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools*.
 - If a complete written notice form is provided, and the student demonstrates that they are under the age of 21 years old, a resident of Ontario and eligible to be registered as a pupil of the board, the school board **must** register the student. Please refer to Table 1: Summary of Eligibility for further information on student eligibility.
 - Schools will be required to retain the documentation supporting enrolment and copies of the written notice for each student for the current and the previous two school years for auditing purposes.
- **These students must not be included on the enrolment register for day school students.** If a written notice is received for a current pupil of the board, that student must be removed from the enrolment register once that student starts to attend the First Nation school.
 - Refer to Section 2, Part C – *Payment and Fees Charged to First Nation Entities for Students* under the heading *School Board Administrative Processes* for further information about documenting and reporting these students for funding purposes.
- If a student is currently registered as a pupil of the board at the school of a school board prior to delivering the written notice, there is **no further action required** by the school board in terms of registration aside from removing the student from the enrolment register for the day school. The student may begin attending the First Nation school on the later of the two dates specified on the written notice, subject to that First Nation school’s admission policies.

For a student wishing to attend a school of a school board:

- Provided that the eligibility requirements are demonstrated in the written notice described above, the school board will be required to register the student as an “other pupil” in accordance with the enrolment policies set out in the *Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools*.
 - Please note that if complete written notice is provided, and the student demonstrates that they are eligible to attend a school of a school board under the REA, the school board must register the student.

- Schools will be required to retain the documentation supporting enrolment and copies of the written notice for each student to support the invoicing process with the First Nation entity.
- In the case where a student is currently registered as an “other pupil” at the school of a school board prior to delivering the written notice, there is no further action required by the school board in terms of registration (refer to Section 2, Part C – *Payment and Fees Charged to the First Nation Entities for Students*). The student may begin attending the school of the school board where the written notice was delivered.

C. Payment and Fees Charged to First Nation Entities for Students

This section outlines how funding to First Nation entities operating a First Nation school will be calculated and processed.

This section includes:

- ✓ School board obligations
- ✓ Calculation of the base fee
- ✓ Payment processes
- ✓ School board administrative processes
- ✓ Student Enrolment List
- ✓ Submission of the Student Enrolment List
- ✓ Determining FTE status
- ✓ Summary of school board reporting and payment schedule
- ✓ Summary of payment cycle descriptions

School Board Obligations

Under the REA, provided eligibility requirements are met and valid written notice has been received, a school board is required to provide base fee funding for each student attending an eligible First Nation school, or admit and charge the base fee for each student attending a school of a school board to the First Nation entity. The ministry will provide base fee funding to school boards to support the base fee payments to First Nation entities.

Calculation of the Base Fee

The amount of funding that a school board is required to provide or charge for each student, called the “base fee”, is a per pupil amount calculated in accordance with section 4 of O.Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach) which is based on the amount set out in Section 3 of the Fees Regulation (See O.Reg. 278/19 - Calculation of Fees for Pupils for the 2019-2020 School Board Fiscal Year).

The base fee amount is derived from the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and will be based on school board estimates for the given school year. As with GSN funding, the

amount is unique to each school board and will be updated annually. The ministry will post the base fee amounts by school board on its website in advance of each school year. School boards will also have access to their base fee calculation through the Education Financial Information System (EFIS).

The base fee that a school board is required to pay a First Nation entity that operates the First Nation school under the REA is the same amount that the same school board is required to charge to the First Nation entity for a First Nation student attending a school of a school board.

Refer to Appendix A for details on the allocations that are included, partially included or excluded from the REA base fee calculation.

Note: Where a student is attending, or wishes to attend a First Nation school, an agreement may be negotiated for the provision of additional services and supports in which funding may be provided in addition to the base fee. Where a student is attending or wishes to attend a school of a school board, O.Reg.261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach) specifies the the additional services and supports for which a board may charge a First Nation entity, in addition to the base fee. Refer to Section 3: *Information for All* for more information.

Payment Processes

To help ensure a transparent process for all parties, the ministry has established a standardized payment process for flowing funds and charging fees to First Nation entities. This includes specific documentation requirements and submission timelines which apply to school boards and First Nation entities and/or schools.

To support the flowing of funds and charging of fees to First Nation entities, students attending First Nation schools and schools of school boards will be identified on an ongoing basis each year. This will help initiate the payment process and will be based on enrolment on two dates in each school year, referred to as “count dates”.

Where a student is attending a First Nation school under the REA, school boards will be required to make payments to the First Nation entity **three times** during the school year. This will begin with a preliminary payment from the ministry to school boards in November 2019 based on estimated REA enrolment at First Nation schools, and subsequent payments following the provincial count dates of October 31 and March 31 of each school year. School boards are expected to make payments to First Nation entities within 10 business days of receipt of the ministry payment.

Important Note: Funding will be provided only for students and schools with documented eligibility requirements in place. Refer to Section 2, Part A: *Ensuring Eligibility* for further details regarding eligibility and refer to Table 3: *Summary of School Board Reporting and Payment Schedules* for timelines impacting payments.

School Board Administrative Processes

School boards must establish new administrative processes to ensure accurate, up-to-date information is reported to the ministry in accordance with the established deadlines. This will require:

- Regular collection of REA student registration information from schools for consolidated ministry reporting (i.e., written notice forms and related data to complete ministry reporting);
 - Schools will be required to retain copies of the written notice forms and student registration information in accordance with ministry auditing guidelines as outlined in the *Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools* for funding purposes and to support fees charged to First Nation entities under the REA.
- Collection and reconciliation of student enrolment information from First Nation entities (and/or schools) following each count date (this must be reconciled against student registration information from schools);
 - The ministry has set deadlines for reporting by First Nation entities and school boards under the REA.
 - School boards will be required to prepare a Student Enrolment List which lists the students attending a school of a school board under the REA which must be submitted to each First Nation entity.
 - Further details on the requirements of the Student Enrolment List that First Nation entities (and/or schools) and school boards must prepare are provided below.
- School boards will be required to submit a **Student Information Report** to the ministry, documenting pupils of the board who are attending First Nation schools. To complete the report, school boards will require the written notice for each student (provided by schools of the school board) and the Student Enrolment List (provided by the First Nation entities and/or schools).
 - This report will serve as the register for pupils of the board attending a First Nation school for the 2019-20 school year¹⁵.
 - This Student Information Report must be submitted to the ministry three times per school year using the Secure Online Data Transfer (SODT) tool.
 - Call (416) 212 6366 or 1 (888) 275 5934 or e-mail: onsis_sison@ontario.ca if you require support for submitting the report to OnSIS using the SODT tool.
 - The ministry will review the submission and provide funding for the base fee to the school board for the eligible students attending a First Nation school

¹⁵ Note: Do not include First Nation students attending a school of a school board under section 188 of the Education Act (i.e., the REA or existing ESA) on the Student Information Report. These students will continue to be recorded as "Other Pupils" on the enrolment register. Refer to the [Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools](#) for further details.

under the REA, in accordance with the amount generated under O. Reg. 278/19 (Calculation of Fees for Pupils for the 2019-2020 School Board Fiscal Year). School boards will then make payments to the First Nation entity.

- Monitoring and tracking payments to First Nation entities based on student reporting (e.g., payments must be made to the First Nation entity named on each student's written notice form); and,
- School boards must retain copies of the documentation received from the First Nation entity for auditing purposes.

Student Enrolment List

First Nation entities (and/or schools) and school boards will be required to provide a list of students attending their respective schools under the REA as documentation that students are active as of the count dates and showing each student's Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) status.

This Student Enrolment List must include the following information:

- The student's surname and first name;
- Student's date of birth;
- Grade level;
- Gender;
- Ontario Education Number (OEN);
- FTE status based on calculation set out in section 4 of O. Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach); and
- The name and the address of the First Nation school the student is attending.

The Student Enrolment List must meet the following requirements specified below.

Where a student is attending a First Nation school:

- The First Nation school (or First Nation entity operating that school) must provide the list to each school board, so that the list aligns with the students on each school board's Student Information Report, which is prepared based on students for whom written notice has been received and/or existing RESAs are in place.
 - Many First Nation schools will have students from multiple school boards. First Nation entities are asked to identify their REA students by their "home" school board and the OEN number assigned to that student.
 - If a school board receives a list with students who are not on the Student Information Report, notify the First Nation entity as quickly as possible to allow for updates.
- The Student Enrolment List must be provided to the school board within 30 days following each of the two count dates in each school year (October 31 and March 31) for funding to be provided on schedule. First Nation entities have been notified that late submissions will be processed as part of the *subsequent* payment cycle and is limited to one cycle.

- However, school boards may, at their discretion, include late submissions in their reports to the ministry as part of the current payment cycle, if time permits.
- The Student Enrolment List must include an attestation from the First Nation entity confirming that the list accurately reflects the active students at the time of the count date.
- Upon receipt of the Student Enrolment List, school boards must confirm that payment information has been included. If additional information is required to provide timely payments, connect with the First Nation entity directly.

Where a student is attending a school of a school board:

- The school board must provide a consolidated Student Enrolment List which lists the students for whom a First Nation entity has provided written notice must be provided to each First Nation entity.
- The list must be provided within 30 days following the two provincial count dates (October 31 and March 31) in each school year.
- The list must include an attestation from the Director of Education confirming that the list accurately reflects the active students at the time of the count date.

Where a student is attending a school of a school board under the REA, the school board may provide other documentation (e.g., copy of the written notice form, confirmation of student's status), to the First Nation entity as requested, and in accordance with the school board's policies and its obligations under relevant legislation, including the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

First Nation entities and school boards are also encouraged to provide student timetables as part of the verification process for funding purposes.

A Student Enrolment List template is provided as Appendix D for reference. School boards and First Nation entities may submit information in another format provided that the fields identified in the same template are included.

Submission of the Student Enrolment List

Where a student is attending a First Nation school:

- First Nation entities (and/or schools) have been directed to address the Student Enrolment List to the attention of both the Supervisory Officer responsible for Indigenous Education and the Business Supervisory Officer at the school board office and may be submitted by electronic mail or by post mail.
- The Student Enrolment List must include payment information with the submission so that school boards will be able to make payments per the payment schedule timeline.

Where a student is attending a school of a school board:

- Send the list to the First Nation entity named on the written notice submitted for each student, and to the attention of the contact named on the written notice.
- The Student Enrolment List must include payment information with the submission so that First Nation entities will be able to arrange payment accordingly.
- To make alternative arrangements for the submission of documentation or payment, First Nation entities are asked to work directly with the school boards.

Table 2: Determining Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Status

Where a student is attending a First Nation school

Following the provincial guidelines, as outlines in the Enrolment Register Instructions for Elementary and Secondary Schools, generally if the number of minutes of instruction for which the student is enrolled is equal to or greater than an average of 210 minutes per day, the FTE status of that student is deemed to be a full-time student for that count date (i.e. the ratio equals 1 on October 31 or March 31 of a given school year).

If the number of minutes of instruction for which the student is enrolled is less than an average of 210 minutes per day, the FTE status is determined by taking the number of minutes for which the student is enrolled in a day school program in a First Nation school on October 31 or March 31 of each school year and dividing that figure by 300 (which is the minimum number of instructional minutes that school boards are required to provide to their students).

The student's FTE status is the cumulative average of the FTE status determined on both the October 31 and March 31 count dates of a given school year.

Table 2: Determining Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Status

Where a student is attending a school of a school board

Following the provincial guidelines, as outlined in the annual Calculation of Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) regulation, generally, if the number of minutes of instruction for which the student is enrolled is equal to or greater than an average of 210 minutes per day¹⁶, the FTE status for that student is deemed to be a full-time student (i.e. the FTE status equals 1).

If the number of minutes of instruction for which the student is enrolled is less than an average of 210 minutes per day, the FTE status is determined by taking the number of minutes for which the student is enrolled in a day school program in a provincially funded school in a cycle, divided by the product of 300 minutes multiplied by the number of days in the cycle¹⁷ on October 31 or March 31 of each school year.

¹⁶ If a student is a supervised alternative learning pupil, then the student is only required to be enrolled in classroom instruction for an average of 70 minutes or more per day to be considered a full-time student.

¹⁷ Cycle means the number of school days for which a schedule of classes in a school continues before the schedule is repeated.

Summary of School Board Reporting and Payment Schedule

The table below provides a summary of timelines and reporting dates impacting school boards, and associated documentation requirements. School board reports to the ministry will be dependent on school-level information – school boards are expected to set deadlines and manage school-level reporting internally.

Table 3: Summary of School Board Reporting and Payment Schedule						
Payment¹⁸	First Nation Entity and/or School Documentation Requirements	Due Date to School Boards	School Board Documentation Requirements	Due Date to Ministry	Payment to School Boards¹⁹	Payment to First Nation Entities
Preliminary payment	Complete written notices provided to a school of a school board and/or existing RESA in place	<i>N/A – written notice forms may be delivered at any time in the year.</i> <i>All forms received by schools by September 30 should be reported to the ministry.</i>	Student Information Report – Section A & B	10th business day in October of a given school year	Third week of November 2019	Within 10 business days of receipt of ministry payment
Second Payment	Student Enrolment List based on the October 31 count date	Last business day in November	Student Information Report – Section A, B and C	Last business day in December	Third week of February	Within 10 business days of receipt of ministry payment
Third Payment	Student Enrolment List based on the March 31 count date	Last business day in April	Student Information Report – Section A, B, C and D	Last business day in May	Third week of July	Within 10 business days of receipt of ministry payment

¹⁸ This payment schedule reflects the minimum schedule of payments school boards are required to make to First Nation entities based on documentation available at the time of processing. School boards may provide earlier or more frequent payments at their discretion, work with First Nation entities directly to arrange adjustments to the schedule.

¹⁹ The ministry will only flow one lump sum to the school board for each payment cycle. It is the school board's responsibility to flow payments to each First Nation entity accordingly.

Summary of Payment Cycle Descriptions

The table below provides a summary of the payment descriptions and calculations.

Table 4: Summary of Payment Cycle Descriptions	
Payment	Description and calculation
Preliminary payment	Based on estimated registration of eligible students at each First Nation School Pro-rated payment for students will be provided covering the period of September 1 to November 30
Second Payment	Based on <i>total</i> student FTE at each First Nation school at the October 31 count date Pro-rated payment for students will be provided covering the period of December 1 to March 31 A reconciliation of the preliminary payment will be made at this time – adjustments will be based on the total student FTE reported on October 31
Final Payment	Based on <i>total</i> student FTE at each First Nation school at the March 31 count date Pro-rated payment for students will be provided covering the period of April 1 to June 30 A reconciliation of the estimated payment for February and March will be made at this time, adjustments will be based on the total student FTE reported on March 31

An agreement may be negotiated for specific additional services, Refer to Section 3: *Information for All* for more information.

SECTION 3: INFORMATION FOR ALL

A. Negotiation of additional services and supports

This section outlines the additional services and supports for which funding may be provided in addition to the base fee where a student is attending a First Nation school or a school of a school board under the REA.

This section includes:

- ✓ Additional services and supports
 - Overview of additional special education staffing
 - Overview of special education equipment costs
 - Transportation amounts
 - Indigenous languages and studies courses
- ✓ Late payment and arrears
- ✓ Existing agreements
- ✓ Dispute resolution
- ✓ First Nation trustees

Additional Services and Supports

School boards and First Nation entities may negotiate additional services and supports for which funding may be provided in addition to the base fee. These additional funds may be provided only if the school board and the First Nation entity enter into an agreement that sets out the additional funds to be paid. The categories of items that can be negotiated are not limited to special education amounts (e.g., transportation).

When a student is attending a school of a school board under the REA, school boards and First Nation entities may negotiate funding for additional services and supports to support the student. In this context, school boards may only charge First Nation entities for the following additional services and supports:

- Special education staffing (support for health and safety of the student)
- Special education equipment costs;
- Transportation; and
- Indigenous languages and studies courses, if that course is not already being offered at the school the student would be attending.

Under the REA, agreements for additional services and supports must include the following:

- The additional services and supports, and the amounts payable in respect of these services and supports
- If a school board or First Nation entity agrees to pay an additional amount for additional special education staffing, a term that indicates that the amount for such staffing per student, per school year, is the amount agreed upon under the agreement, which shall not exceed the maximum amount the board is entitled to receive annually for each student under the Special Incidence Portion of the annual GSN Regulation.
- If a school board or First Nation agrees to pay an amount for special education equipment costs and a deductible is agreed upon, a term that indicates the deductible that was agreed upon. The deductible shall not exceed \$800 per school year.

Overview of Additional Special Education Staffing

Additional special education staffing supports may be negotiated between the First Nation entity and the school board to support students attending a school of a school board or a First Nation school under the REA who have extraordinarily high needs and require additional staff to address their health and/or safety needs.

- The level of staff support will be determined between the parties.
- For students attending First Nation schools under the REA, First Nation entities operating these schools will need to submit the required documentation specified in Table 1: *Summary of Required Documentation for Special Education Staffing* to the board at which the student is registered and negotiate and enter into an agreement with the school board at which the student is registered as a REA student.
- For students attending a school of a school board under the REA, the school board will need to submit the required documentation specified in Table 1, as noted above, to the First Nation entity from which they received written notice and negotiate and enter into an agreement with the First Nation entity.

Processes and Required Documentation for Negotiating Additional Special Education Staffing

Additional special education staffing may be negotiated between the First Nation entity and a school board to support students with extraordinarily high needs. Where a student is attending a First Nation school, First Nation entities are responsible for providing the following documentation to the school board at which the student is registered. Similarly, where a student is attending a school of a school board, school boards are responsible for providing the following documentation to the First Nation entity from which written notice was received.

Table 1: Summary of Required Documentation for Additional Special Education Staffing	
Documentation	Requirements/Description
Individual Education Plan (IEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a student is attending a First Nation school under REA, the First Nation entity that operates the school and/or the school's officials are responsible for preparing the IEP. • Where a student is attending a school of a school board under REA, the school's officials are responsible for preparing the IEP. • An IEP is a written plan describing the special education program and/or services required by a student, based on a thorough assessment of the student's strengths and needs that affect the student's ability to learn and demonstrate learning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developed and signed by the school principal or equivalent position, usually with input from the parent(s), guardian(s) and from the student if they are 16 years of age or older.
Summary of Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a student is attending a First Nation school under REA, the First Nation entity that operates the school and/or the school's officials are responsible for preparing a Summary of Needs. • Where a student is attending a school of a school board under REA, the school's officials are responsible for preparing the Summary of Needs. • This is a written description of the health and/or safety needs of the student, and how assigned staff work with the student to support the student's health and/or safety needs during a typical school day. • Where a student is attending a First Nation school under REA, school boards should be flexible in assessing the Summary of Needs document. The Summary of Needs provided by the First Nation entity may look different from a school board's summary, reflecting the First Nation's delivery model.
Staff Support Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a student is attending a First Nation school under REA, the First Nation entity that operates the school and/or the school's officials are responsible for preparing the Staff Support Information. • Where a student is attending a school of a school board under REA, the school's officials are responsible for preparing the Summary of Needs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This document describes staff supporting the student throughout the school day, at the level of support agreed to by both parties, thus triggering the additional fee. • The parties can determine the form and content of the document to be utilized to demonstrate staff support information. This document is intended to provide evidence of the level of staff support agreed to, which will generate additional funds.
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Responsibilities of school boards and First Nation entities where students are attending a First Nation school

- Where students are attending a First Nation school, the First Nation entity that operates the school is responsible for delivering the documentation in Table 1: *Summary of Required Documentation for Additional Special Education Staffing* to the school board at which the student is registered.
- Upon receipt of the above documentation, the school board is responsible for verifying the documentation to ensure the student qualifies for additional special education staffing
 - The ministry is available to answer questions about additional special education staffing under REA.
- It is important to note that the cap, or maximum amount the First Nation may receive annually under this additional fee will be the maximum amount that can be generated under the Special Incidence Portion of the annual GSN Regulation.

Responsibilities of school boards and First Nations where students are attending a school of a school board

- Where students are attending a school of a school board, the school board is responsible for delivering the documentation in Table 1: *Summary of Required Documentation for Additional Special Education Staffing* to the First Nation entity that provided written notice.
- Upon receipt of the documentation, the First Nation is responsible for verifying the documentation to ensure the student qualifies for additional special education staffing
 - The ministry is available to answer questions about additional special education staffing under REA.
- It is important to note that the cap, or maximum amount the school board is entitled to receive annually under the Special Incidence Portion of the annual GSN Regulation, is the highest amount that can be claimed for additional special education staffing.

School Board Processes for Reimbursement of Costs Associated with Special Education Staffing

- The school board can request that the funds paid to First Nation entities for additional special education staffing be reimbursed by the ministry. To be eligible for reimbursement of these amounts, school boards must:
 - Have an agreement in place with the First Nation entity for the special education staffing.
 - Ensure that students meet the criteria set out in the *Special Education Funding Guidelines: Special Incidence Portion (SIP)* for that school year. However, note that only the above-listed documentation is required to demonstrate student need for special education staffing in the REA context.
 - Ensure that the amount claimed for reimbursement is no higher than the maximum amount that school boards may claim under the SIP amount under the GSN regulation (e.g. O. Reg. 277/19).
- Applications for reimbursement must be made in writing to the Director of Field Services Branch at the ministry, and must include the student's Individual Education Plan, Summary of Needs and Staff Support Information.
- School boards must maintain all documentation submitted for special education staff supports and the related agreements for the current school year and the previous two school years. All documentation used in support of a claim for special education staff supports is subject to review and audit by the ministry.

Overview of Special Equipment Costs

Special education equipment costs may be negotiated between the First Nation entity and the school board, where the need for specific equipment is recommended by a qualified professional.

Special education equipment must be utilized to accommodate students and is directly required for the student to access education.

Processes and Required Documentation for Negotiating Special Education Equipment Costs

- Where a student is attending a First Nation school under REA, school boards may agree to pay for the cost of special education equipment less any deductible negotiated between the school board and the First Nation entity that operates the school.
 - An agreement must be negotiated for these costs.
 - The First Nation entity and/or the school's officials are responsible for assessing whether a student requires special education equipment, and for informing the school board of these needs.
 - The First Nation entity that operates the school will be responsible for providing the documentation set out in Table 2: *Summary of Required Documentation for Special Education Equipment Costs* to the school board.

- The First Nation entity is responsible for providing the school board with the total estimated equipment cost prior to purchase.
- The First Nation entity is responsible for providing the school board with the final invoice, after the submission of the required documentation is complete, an agreement is in place, and the equipment is purchased.
- Where a student is attending a school of a school board under REA, the First Nation may agree to pay for the cost of special education equipment less any deductible negotiated between the school board and the First Nation entity.
 - An agreement must be negotiated for these costs.
 - School boards are responsible for assessing whether a student requires special education equipment, and for informing the First Nation entity from which they received written notice of these needs.
 - School boards will be responsible for providing the documentation set out in *Table 2: Summary of Required Documentation for Special Education Equipment Costs* to the First Nation entity.
 - School boards must provide the First Nation entity with the total estimated equipment cost prior to purchase.
 - School boards must provide the First Nation entity with the final invoice, after the submission of the required documentation is complete, an agreement is in place, and the equipment is purchased.
- Eligible expenses include all costs associated with purchasing and/or leasing equipment to meet students' special education needs as well as the related costs such as service contracts, shipping and training that are required to make equipment operational and that are not already available at the school the student is attending.
- It is best practice that the special education equipment moves with the student. This means that when the student transfers to another school (First Nation school or school of a school board) the equipment should, in most instances, move with the student. Where special circumstances exist, such as the high cost of moving equipment, First Nation entities and school boards should negotiate what will happen with the equipment.
- The following is the required documentation for special education equipment costs:

Table 2: Summary of Required Documentation for Special Education Equipment Costs	
Documentation	Requirements/Description
Individual Education Plan (<u>IEP</u>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Where a student is attending a First Nation school under REA, the First Nation entity that operates the school and/or the school's officials are responsible for preparing the IEP. ● Where a student is attending a school of a school board under REA, the school's officials are responsible for preparing the IEP.

Table 2: Summary of Required Documentation for Special Education Equipment Costs	
Documentation	Requirements/Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An IEP is a written plan describing the special education program and/or services required by a student, based on a thorough assessment of the student's strengths and needs that affect the student's ability to learn and demonstrate learning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developed and signed by the school principal or equivalent position, usually with input from the parent(s), guardian(s) and from the student if he or she is 16 years of age or older.
Professional Assessment for required equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This document provides a description of the condition the equipment is meant to address and functional recommendation regarding the specific types of equipment the student requires to address their strengths and needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where a student is attending a First Nation school under REA, this may be completed by a qualified professional or by the school principal. ○ Where a student is attending a school of a school board under REA, this must be completed by a qualified professional.
Proof of Purchase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nation entity/school board to provide to other party. • This document is a copy of a paid invoice for the special equipment.

Responsibilities of school boards and First Nation entities where students are attending a First Nation school

- Where students are attending a First Nation school, the First Nation entity that operates the school is responsible for delivering the documentation in Table 2: *Summary of Required Documentation for Special Education Equipment Costs* to the school board at which the student is registered.
- Upon receipt of the above documentation, the school board is responsible for verifying the documentation to ensure the student qualifies for additional special education equipment costs
 - The ministry is available to answer questions about additional special education equipment costs under REA.

- It is important to note that if a school board or First Nation, agrees to pay an amount for special education equipment, and a deductible is agreed upon, the deductible shall not exceed \$800 per school year.

Responsibilities of school boards and First Nations where students are attending a school of a school board

- Where students are attending a school of a school board, the school board is responsible for delivering the documentation in Table 2: *Summary of Required Documentation for Special Education Equipment Costs* to the First Nation entity that provided the written notice.
- Upon receipt of the documentation, the First Nation is responsible for verifying the documentation to ensure the student qualifies for additional special education equipment costs
 - The ministry is available to answer questions about additional special education equipment costs under REA.
- It is important to note that if a school board or First Nation, agrees to pay an amount for special education equipment, and a deductible is agreed upon, the deductible shall not exceed \$800 per school year.

School Board Processes for Reimbursement of Costs Associated with Special Education Equipment

- The school board can request reimbursement from the ministry for funds paid to First Nation entities for additional special education equipment costs. To be eligible for reimbursement of these amounts, school boards must ensure that:
 - An agreement is in place with the First Nation entity for the special education equipment costs.
 - Students meet the criteria set out in the *Special Education Funding Guidelines: Special Equipment Amount (SEA)* for that school year. However, note that only the above-listed documentation is required to demonstrate student need for special education equipment costs in the REA context.
 - Any deductible the First Nation entity would pay does not exceed \$800. This deductible applies per student, per school year. This may include multiple pieces of equipment for a student in a single school year.
- Applications for reimbursement must be made in writing to the Director of Field Services Branch at the ministry, and must include the student's Individual Education Plan, Professional Assessment for required equipment and Proof of Purchase (i.e., a copy of a paid invoice).
- School boards must maintain all documentation submitted for special education equipment costs and the related agreements for the current school year and the previous two school years. All documentation used in support of a claim for special education equipment is subject to review and audit by the ministry.

Transportation Amounts

- Amounts related to transportation are excluded from the base fee calculation. Additional amounts may be negotiated between First Nation entities and school boards in addition to the base fee.

Indigenous Languages and Studies Courses

- Allocations related to Indigenous languages and studies courses are included in the base fee calculation. However, where a course is not offered at the school board, additional funding may be negotiated between First Nation entities and school boards.

B. Late Payments and Arrears

This section provides information for First Nation entities that operate First Nation schools and school boards in the case of arrears.

This sub-section includes:

- ✓ School board obligations
- ✓ Steps for First Nation entities to take in the event of late payment
- ✓ Overview of regulatory conditions regarding arrears

School Board Obligations

Under the REA, school boards are required to provide base fee funding to the First Nation entity when eligibility criteria and other requirements are met (e.g., complete written notice has been received).

In addition, processes have been established to ensure consistent and transparent timelines for all parties. The reporting schedule and payment timelines have been outlined in Section 2, Table 3: *Summary of School Board Reporting and Payment Schedules*.

School boards must meet the payment timelines outlined in the table noted above, provided the necessary documentation is received from First Nation entities.

School boards are expected to notify First Nation entities of any issues with documentation received as soon as possible.

School boards are expected to be familiar with the reporting and payment schedule and maintain detailed records of documentation and payments related to REA students.

Steps for First Nation Entities to Take in the Event of Late Payment

If scheduled payment has not been received within one week of the payment schedule timelines outlined in Section 2, Table 3: *Summary of School Board Reporting and Payment Schedule*, First Nation entities are encouraged to contact the school board to confirm the status of the payment.

School boards may also contact First Nation entities during their reconciliation process to verify documentation requirements (i.e. names of eligible schools, written notice submissions).

The entity operating the First Nation school may also contact the Indigenous Education Office of the ministry if there are payment issues that require ministry clarification.

Overview of Regulatory Conditions Regarding Arrears

Under the REA, school boards must accept all eligible students, where a valid written notice has been received. In the event of arrears, school boards may not deny admission to eligible students.

Where a student is attending a First Nation school, school boards should not be in a position of arrears with the First Nation entity.

School boards are permitted to offset payments to the entity operating the First Nation school if the entity is in arrears in respect of amounts owing to a school board for First Nation students attending a school of a school board under section 188 of the *Education Act*.

O.Reg. 261/19 (Reciprocal Education Approach) specifies one option that a school board may consider if a First Nation entity is in arrears. In these situations, the school board may reduce the amount it pays to a First Nation entity for students attending the First Nation school operated by that entity by the amount that is owed by the *same* entity to the school board for First Nation students attending a school of that board.

In calculating the amount related to arrears that the school board would deduct from the amount paid to the First Nation entity, boards are required to comply with the following parameters:

- The amount will be limited to overdue/outstanding base fee amounts and would not apply to any fees owed in relation to additional negotiated services and supports;
- The amount will be limited to base fee amounts owed after September 1, 2019 (i.e., any fees charged or owed prior to September 1, 2019 could not be deducted from the amount paid to the First Nation entity); and
- A school board may not apply interest to the amount owed by the First Nation entity.

In the case where there is a disagreement regarding arrears, parties could also follow a dispute resolution process (refer to Section 3, Part D: *Dispute Resolution* for further information).

C. Existing Agreements

This section outlines the impact of the new legislation and regulations on existing agreements (ESAs and RESAs).

This section includes:

- ✓ Conditions around the continuation of existing agreements
- ✓ Transitions of current agreements to the REA

Conditions Around Continuation of Existing Agreements

- Existing agreements may remain in effect until the agreement expires or the agreement is terminated.
- Any existing RESAs will be subject to the condition that the base fee that is to be paid or charged to the First Nation entity must be at least the fee calculated in accordance with the new reciprocal base fee formula, set out in regulation.
- Any existing ESAs will be subject to the condition that the fee as set out in the annual Fees regulation applies (e.g. the fee set out in section 3 of O. Reg. 278/19 (Calculation of Fees for Pupils for the 2019-2020 School Board Fiscal Year)).
- New processes for identifying enrolment and payments have been established for both First Nation entities and school boards and are outlined in Section 1, Part C and Section 2, Part C: *Payment and Fees to First Nation Entities for Students*, as well as Section 1, Table 5: *Summary of Documentation Requirements and Payment Timelines Impacting First Nations* and Section 2, Table 3: *Summary of School Board Reporting and Payment Schedule*.
- First Nation entities and/or schools will be expected to report the current RESAs in the Student Enrolment List submitted to school boards and school boards will be expected to report the current ESAs in the Student Enrolment List submitted to First Nation entities to support the invoicing process.
 - School boards will be required to include the RESAs reported by the First Nation entity or school in the Student Information Report that is submitted to the ministry for funding purposes.

Transitions of Current Agreements to the REA

- Where an existing agreement expires or is terminated, First Nations and parents, guardians or students must follow the steps regarding delivery of the written notice form to the school board (refer to Section 1, Part B and Section 2, Part B: *Admission of Students Under the REA*). If the student is already registered at the school of the school board, the student does not need to re-register at the school.

D. Dispute Resolution

This section outlines possible approaches to resolving disputes that may arise under the REA.

This section includes:

- ✓ Approaches for resolving disputes under the REA
- ✓ Resources for resolving disputes under the REA
 - Human Rights and Equity Advisors

Resolving Disputes under the REA

Parties are encouraged to use mechanisms to resolve disputes that are mutually agreed upon and appropriate for their situation.

Parties may also consider using the resources noted below.

Resources for Resolving Disputes the REA

Human Rights and Equity Advisors

Human Rights and Equity Advisors (HREAs) are available for the 2019-2020 school year for First Nation entities and school boards to help support dispute resolution.

HREAs are funded by the ministry and work in several school boards across Ontario. They are employees of school boards.

On an as-needed basis, and where feasible, the HREAs can support the resolution of disputes concerning additional fees for services and supports students receive under the REA. For example, HREAs could:

- Help support the development or negotiation of an agreement for additional services and supports by encouraging dialogue between the First Nation entity and the school board;
- Help facilitate discussions about the level of special education supports provided to students with special education needs by arranging, or being part of, mediation or other forms of dispute resolution; and
- Can arrange for a fact-finding or investigation process (e.g. establishing an independent fact-finding team) if a dispute over facts cannot be resolved. After an investigation, a report can be generated that identifies whether the provisions of the relevant legislation, regulation or policy have been appropriately observed. The report can assist with further decision-making by the parties.

Note: Any dispute resolution costs, other than HREA, are the responsibility of the First Nation and the school board.

A school board without an HREA may use the services of one employed at another school board, with the consent of the school board that is the employer of the HREA.

Where disputes are time-consuming or very complex, an HREA may suspend their support and the parties may be asked to engage the assistance of an outside arbitrator or other resource.

E. First Nation Trustees

Under the *Education Act*, and as outlined in O. Reg. 462/97 (First Nation Representation on Boards), students attending schools of a school board may be entitled to representation by a First Nation trustee.

The regulation has been amended to apply to students attending under an Education Services Agreement, or under the REA.

The thresholds for First Nation trustee appointments, outlined in O. Reg. 462/97, remain unchanged where the number of First Nation students attending schools of a school board under an ESA or the REA is as follows:

Enrolment	Number of First Nation Trustees
Fewer than the lesser of 100 and 10 percent of the average daily enrolment (ADE) in the schools of the school board	The First Nation entity (or entities) may name one person and the school board has discretion to appoint them to be a member of the board.
100 or 10 percent of the ADE in the schools of the school board	The First Nation entity (or entities) may name one person and the school board shall appoint them to be a member of the board.
Exceeds 25 percent of the ADE in the schools of the school board	The First Nation entity (or entities) may name two persons and the school board shall appoint them to be members of the board.

For more information, school boards and First Nations should refer to the regulation noted above.

Glossary of Terms

Education Services Agreement (ESA)

An agreement between a First Nation entity and a school board which was required, prior to the introduction of the REA, for First Nation students living on reserve to attend a school of a school board.

Under the REA, ESAs entered into before September 1, 2019 may remain in effect until the agreement expires or is terminated. Any existing ESAs will be subject to the condition that the fee as set out in the annual Fees regulation applies.

Eligible school

Eligible school refers to a school which may participate in the REA. An eligible school must:

- be operated by a First Nation entity (definition below);
- not charge tuition to students for elements of a classroom education that are required by, and generally common to, all students; and,
- if required by the regulations, provide supporting documentation to the ministry.

The ministry will be managing an active list of eligible schools [here](#).

Eligible schools may be operated by First Nations or the federal government and may be located on or off-reserve.

First Nation Entity (or Eligible Entity)

The *Education Act* specifies the entities that:

- operate schools which may participate in the REA (i.e. an “eligible school”), and
- must provide written notice to initiate the REA process (for a student to attend a First Nation school or a school of a school board).

These entities are:

- bands
- councils of bands
- the Crown in right of Canada
- education authorities that are authorized by a band or a council of a band or by the Crown in right of Canada to provide elementary or secondary education

Grants for Student Needs (GSN)

The ministry provides most of the operating funding to Ontario’s school boards through the annual GSN, also known as “the funding formula.”

The GSN is a collection of allocations described in detail in an annual regulation made under the *Education Act*. Funding entitlements for school boards can be generated on a per-pupil, per-school, or per-board basis depending on the structure of each allocation within the GSN regulation.

GSN funding is based on various indicators to address cost drivers; that is, school boards receive funding based on what they need to serve all students at comparable levels across Ontario. Because cost structures will vary from school board to school board, the average funding per student varies across school boards.

“Home” School Board

Refers to the school board in which the student is currently registered, for the purposes of attending a First Nation school under the REA. Refer to the term “School Boards” in this glossary for a definition of a school board.

Other Pupil

A student known as an “other pupil” does not generate funding for the school board through the GSN.

Under *O.Reg. 279/19 (Calculation of Average Daily Enrolment for the 2018-2019 School Board Fiscal Year)*, an “**other pupil**” is generally described as:

- A student who is registered under the *Indian Act* and who resides on reserve;
- An international student (e.g., in Canada on a study permit and is required to pay fees); or
- A student whose parent or guardian resides outside of Ontario (e.g., in other provinces such as Quebec) and the pupil was not counted as a pupil of a board in the previous school year.

Pupil of the Board

Under the GSN, a pupil of the board is a pupil who is eligible to be enrolled in a school of a school board and generates funding through the GSN.

Reciprocal Education Approach (REA)

The REA is a new framework supported by the *Education Act* and regulations made under the Act. It is intended to improve access to education for First Nation students by eliminating the need for school boards and First Nation entities to enter into and negotiate Education Service Agreements or Reverse Education Service Agreements. In accordance with requirements set out in the legislation, eligible students would be admitted to a school of a school board. Similarly, in the reverse context, school boards would be required to support eligible students to attend an eligible First Nation-operated or federally-operated school, subject to the First Nation school’s admission policies.

The REA sets out a reciprocal base fee which school boards will be required to pay or charge First Nation entities. Additionally, with respect to First Nation students attending a school of a school board, the regulation would specify the additional supports and services in addition to the base fee that may be negotiated (e.g., transportation, or some claims-based special education equipment costs and additional special education staff supports).

Reverse Education Services Agreement (RESA)

An agreement between a First Nation entity and a school board which was required, prior to the introduction of the REA, for students who reside off-reserve could to a First Nation-operated or federally-operated school (“First Nation schools”).

Under the REA, RESAs entered into before September 1, 2019 may remain in effect until the agreement expires or is terminated. Any existing RESAs will be subject to the condition that the fee that is to be paid to the First Nation entity must be at least the fee calculated in accordance with the new reciprocal base fee formula, set out in regulation.

School Boards

Ontario's 72 district school boards operate the vast majority of the province's publicly-funded schools. The school boards administer the funding they receive from the province for their schools.

School boards are responsible for various aspects of education, including:

- determining the number, size and location of schools;
- building, equipping and furnishing schools;
- providing education programs that meet the needs of the school community, including needs for special education;
- managing funds allocated by the province to support all board activities, including education programs for elementary and secondary school students, and the building and maintenance of schools;
- enforcing the student attendance provisions of the *Education Act*; and
- ensuring schools comply with the *Education Act*, its regulations and any policies made under the Act.

School of a School Board

One or more school facility/facilities operated by the school board and located on a single campus.

A school is identified as:

- an elementary school when it consists of only elementary school facilities;
- a secondary school when it consists of only secondary school facilities;
- a combined elementary/secondary school when a school consists of both elementary and secondary school facilities (for example, Grades 7 and 8 with Grades 9 to 12).

Student Enrolment List

This is a list of students that both school boards and First Nation entities will prepare as documentation showing that the students for whom written notice were received continue to be active students on the enrolment count dates.

Student Information Report

A reporting template which documents pupils of the board attending First Nation schools and is submitted to the ministry by school boards through the Secure Online Data Transfer system.

Special Incidence Portion (SIP)

The Special Incidence Portion is funding intended to support students with extraordinarily high needs who require more than two full-time staff to address their health and/or safety needs. Funding is based on claims submitted by school boards.

Special Equipment Amount (SEA)

This funding from the ministry supports the purchase of equipment that may be required by students with special education needs. There are two components to this allocation:

- A per-pupil amount that allows the school board to purchase computers, software, robotics, computing-related devices and required supporting furniture, as well as all Special Equipment Amount training and technician costs, maintenance and repairs. This allocation consists of a base amount for each school board plus a per-pupil amount reflecting the school board's average daily enrolment of all students.
- A claims-based process that supports the purchase by the school board of other, non-computer-based equipment required by students with special education needs. This may include hearing and/or vision support equipment, personal care support equipment and/or physical assists support equipment.

Written Notice

Written notice is the required documentation to initiate the REA process. Receipt of the school board of complete written notice initiates the school board's obligation to either admit the student to a school of the board or provide for the admission of the student to an eligible First Nation school. Written notice must be provided by:

- A First nation entity, i.e. a band; a council of a band; the Crown in right of Canada; or an education authority authorised by a band, council of a band, or the Crown in right of Canada, and
- The student's parent, guardian or, where the student is an adult (18 years of age or older) or has withdrawn from parental control, by the student themselves.

Appendix A: Grants/Allocations Included in the Base Fee

The following table provides an overview of the proposed REA base fee, based on the 2019-20 Grants for Student Needs funding.

Grant*	Included** in the REA Base Fee?
Pupil Foundation Grant	Yes
School Foundation Grant	Yes
Special Education Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Education Per-Pupil Amount Allocation • Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount Allocation • Special Equipment Amount Allocation • Special Incidence Portion Allocation • Care, Treatment, Custody and Correctional Amount (Formerly the Facilities Amount) • Behaviour Expertise Amount Allocation 	Yes, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Incidence Portion and Special Equipment Amount claims-based amounts (may be negotiated outside the base fee) • funding for Care and/or Treatment, Custody, and Correctional Facilities
Language Grant (Some allocations are only applicable for English-language boards and others are only applicable for French-language boards) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development Allocation • French as a Second Language Allocation • French as a First Language Allocation • Programme d'appui aux nouveaux arrivants Allocation • Actualisation linguistique en français Allocation 	Yes, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New school start-up component within the French as a First Language Allocation
Indigenous Education Grant	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional funding may be negotiated separately (e.g., for additional Indigenous languages or Indigenous studies courses)
Geographic Circumstances Grant	Yes
Learning Opportunities Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Achievement Envelope • Demographic Allocation • Literacy and Math Outside the School Day Allocation • Student Success, Grade 7 to 12 Allocation • Grade 7 and 8 Student Success and Literacy and Numeracy Teacher Allocation 	Yes, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy and Math Outside the Day School Allocation and transportation amount within the Student Success, Grade 7 to 12 Allocation.

Grant*	Included** in the REA Base Fee?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership Tutoring Allocation • Specialist High Skills Major Allocation • Outdoor Education Allocation • Library Staff Allocation • School Authorities Amalgamation Adjustment 	
Safe and Accepting Schools Supplement	Yes
Continuing Education and Other Programs Grant	No
Cost Adjustment and Teacher Qualification and Experience Grant	Yes
Student Transportation Grant	No
Declining Enrolment Adjustment	Yes
<p>School Board Administration and Governance Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustee Allocation • Reporting Entity Project Allocation • Parent Engagement Funding Allocation • Internal Audit Allocation • Board Administration Allocation • Program Leadership Allocation • Central Employer Bargaining Agency Fees Allocation • Funding for Capital Planning Capacity Allocation • Managing Information for Student Achievement Local Capacity Allocation 	<p>Yes, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Allocation • Employer Bargaining Agent Fees Allocation • Reporting Entity Project Allocation
<p>School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Operations Allocation • Base School Operations • Community Use of Schools Allocation • Licensing and Related Fees for Approved Asset Management Software Allocation • Capital Lease Amount on School Authority Amalgamation • Care, Treatment, Custody and Correctional Amount Operations Allocation • School Renewal Allocation 	<p>Yes, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amounts related to continuing education and summer school within the School Operations Allocation • Care, Treatment, Custody, and Correctional Amount Operations Allocation • Community Use of Schools Allocation • Licensing and Related Fees for Approved Asset Management Software • Capital Lease Amount on School Authority Amalgamation

Grant*	Included** in the REA Base Fee?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="980 279 1398 317">• School Renewal Allocation
Debt Service Support	No
Capital Funding	No

*The grants and allocations specified within the table are based on the 2019-20 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and are subject to change based on year-over-year changes to the GSN.

**The base fee for isolate boards is calculated based on the School Authorities Allocation and is not broken down into the components set out above but is generally reflective of how the base fee is calculated for district school boards.

Reciprocal Education Approach Written Notice for Eligible Students to Attend an Eligible First Nation School

This form may be used by entities and parents, guardians or students to provide notice to a school board as required under section 185 of the *Education Act* to initiate the process for a student to attend a First Nation school under the Reciprocal Education Approach.

Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory for entities and parents, guardians or students

1. Notice of the Entity

Information about the Entity

This notice is being initiated by *

- A band
 A council of a band
 An education authority that is authorized by a band or council of a band
 The Crown in right of Canada
 An education authority that is authorized by the Crown in Right of Canada

Legal Name of Entity *

Contact Person's Details

Last Name *

First Name *

Title *

Address

Unit Number

Street Number *

Street Name *

PO Box

City/Town *

Province *

Postal Code *

Telephone Number *

ext.

Fax Number

Email Address

Information about the Student

Last Name *

First Name *

Date of Birth (yyyy/mm/dd) *

Provincial OEN # (if available)

Name of First Nation school student intends to attend *

Intended admission date (yyyy/mm/dd) *

Student's credit count or most recent grade completed

Address of school student intends to attend

Unit Number

Street Number *

Street Name *

PO Box

City/Town *

Province *

Postal Code *

Does the student have an IEP (Individual Education Plan)? *

- Yes
 No

Special Education Supports Needed *

- Behaviour
 Intellectual
 Communication
 Physical
 Multiple
 Other
 Not Applicable

Is this student receiving special education programs and/or service? *

- Yes No

The entity providing this notice requests that the school board transfer the student's attendance record to the school the student intends to attend.

The entity providing this notice requests that the school board transfer the student's Ontario Student Record (OSR) to the school the student intends to attend.

The OSR is a permanent record for each student who enrolls in school in Ontario and accompanies the student if the student moves to another school in the province. Transfer of the OSR is important in order for the receiving school to track the student's educational progress and other relevant documentation required for the successful educational progress of the student. The OSR may also contain important educational accommodation, modification and/or health and custody-related information conducive to the student's learning.

Additional Notes

2. Signature

Name of Official of Entity *

Date (yyyy/mm/dd) *

Signature of Official (I have authority to bind the above entity) *

3. Notice of the Parent, Guardian or Student

Student's Last Name *

Student's First Name *

This notice is being initiated by *

- Parent of the student ¹
 Guardian of the student
 The student if they are at least 18 years of age
 The student, if 16 or 17 years of age and has withdrawn from parental control

Name of parent, guardian or student ² *

Address of student

Unit Number

Street Number *

Street Name *

PO Box

City/Town *

Province *

Postal Code *

Address of parent or guardian

Same as address of student

Unit Number

Street Number *

Street Name *

PO Box

City/Town *

Province *

Postal Code *

Phone number of parent, guardian or student *

Email address of parent, guardian or student

Name of First Nation school student intends to attend *

Intended admission date (yyyy/mm/dd) *

I hereby consent to the release of the above-named student's attendance records to the above-named school.

I hereby consent to the release of the above-named student's Ontario Student Record to the above-named school.

4. Consent and Notice of Collection of Personal Information

By signing below, you are providing consent to the _____
Insert the name of school board *
for the indirect collection of personal information from

Insert the name of the: band; council of a band; education authority that is authorized by a band or council of a band; education authority that is authorized by the Crown in Right of Canada; or the Crown in Right of Canada *

The school board collects the information in this form directly from you and will indirectly collect the personal information identified in the Written Notice for Eligible Students Attending a School of a School Board form or the Written Notice for Eligible Students Attending an Eligible School form, as the case may be, from the entity named above. This includes:

- Student's name, date of birth, and Ontario Education Number
- Student's address and contact information
- Parent or guardian's name, address, and contact information
- Student's intended admission date and school
- Student's eligibility for the Reciprocal Education Approach (i.e. under sections 185 and 188 of the *Education Act*)
- Student's credit count or grade
- Student's special education supports needed, if applicable, including exceptionalities and Individual Education Plan
- Student's attendance records and Ontario Student Record

This personal information is being collected in accordance with subsection 28(2) of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and pursuant to sections 185 and 188 of the *Education Act*.

The school board will use this personal information for the purposes of administering the Reciprocal Education Approach, including:

- Determining eligibility to attend a First Nation school or school of a school board under sections 185 or 188 of the *Education Act*, as the case may be.
- Providing funding to an entity that operates a First Nation school.
- Determining the fees that would be charged to an entity that provides written notice in respect of a First Nation student attending a school of the school board.
- Processing payments to be paid to an entity operating a First Nation school or for payments to be charged to an entity that provides written notice in respect of a First Nation student attending a school of the school board.

The school board may also disclose this personal information to the Ministry of Education, as required under paragraph 27.1 of subsection 8(1) or subsection 8.1(5) of the *Education Act*.

To be completed by the school board:

Officer or Employee of the school board who can answer the individual's questions about the collection

Title

Business address

Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

PO Box

City/Town		Province	Postal Code
Business Telephone Number	Fax Number	Email Address	

5. Signature

I have read and understood all parts of this written notice, including the Consent and Notice of Collection of Personal Information section, above, and my signature attests to my consent to the indirect collection, use and disclosure of my or my child's personal information and that the information in this notice is complete and true. If indicated above, I also consent to the release of the above-named student's attendance records and/or Ontario Student Record to the above-named school.

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Student ³ *	Date (yyyy/mm/dd) *
Signature of Student ³ *	Date (yyyy/mm/dd) *

¹ Guardian means a person defined in section 18 of the Education Act. This is either a legal guardian (other than a parent), or anyone who has received into their care or residence, a person of compulsory school age.

² The student may provide written notice if they are 16 or 17 and have withdrawn from parental control or are 18 years of age or older.

³ If the student is 16 or 17 years of age, the consent of both the parent/guardian and the student is required for the school board's indirect collection of personal information. If the student is 16 or 17 years of age and has withdrawn from parental control, or if the student is 18 years of age or older, the consent of the student is required for the school board's indirect collection of the student's personal information.

Reciprocal Education Approach Written Notice for Eligible Students to Attend a School of a School Board

This form may be used by entities and parents, guardians or students to provide notice to a school board as required under section 188 of the *Education Act* to initiate the process for a student to attend a school of a school board under the Reciprocal Education Approach.

Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory for entities and parents, guardians or students

1. Notice of the Entity

Information about the Entity

This notice is being initiated by *

- A band
 A council of a band
 An education authority that is authorized by a band or council of a band
 The Crown in right of Canada
 An education authority that is authorized by the Crown in Right of Canada

Legal Name of Entity *

Contact Person's Details

Last Name *

First Name *

Title *

Address

Unit Number

Street Number *

Street Name *

PO Box

City/Town *

Province *

Postal Code *

Telephone Number *

ext.

Fax Number

Email Address

Information about the Student

Last Name *

First Name *

Date of Birth (yyyy/mm/dd) *

Provincial OEN # (if available)

Student Eligibility *

- The above-named pupil is eligible to receive funding from the Crown in right of Canada, or a band, a council of a band, an education authority that is authorized by a band or a council of a band or by the Crown in right of Canada.
 The above-named pupil ordinarily resides on a reserve within the meaning of the *Indian Act* (Canada).

Name of school of a school board student intends to attend *

Intended admission date of student (yyyy/mm/dd) *

Student's credit count or most recent grade completed _____

Does the student have an IEP (Individual Education Plan)? *

- Yes No

Special Education Supports Needed *

- Behaviour Intellectual Communication Physical Multiple
 Other Not Applicable

Is this student receiving special education programs and/or service? *

- Yes No

The entity providing this notice agrees to transfer the student's attendance record to the school the student intends to attend, if consent of the parent, guardian or student is provided below

The entity providing this notice agrees to transfer the student's Ontario Student Record (OSR) to the school the student intends to attend, if consent of the parent, guardian or student is provided below

The OSR is a permanent record for each student who enrolls in school in Ontario and accompanies the student if the student moves to another school in the province. Transfer of the OSR is important in order for the receiving school to track the student's educational progress and other relevant documentation required for the successful educational progress of the student. The OSR may also contain important educational accommodation, modification and/or health and custody-related information conducive to the student's learning.

2. Signature

Name of Official of Entity *

Date (yyyy/mm/dd) *

Signature of Official (I have authority to bind the above entity) *

3. Notice of the Parent, Guardian or Student

Student's Last Name *

Student's First Name *

This notice is being initiated by *

- Parent of the student Guardian ¹ of the student The student if they are at least 18 years of age
 The student, if 16 or 17 years of age and has withdrawn from parental control

Name of parent, guardian or student ² *

Address of student

Unit Number

Street Number *

Street Name *

PO Box

City/Town/Reserve Name *

Province *

Postal Code *

Address of parent or guardian

Same as address of student

Unit Number

Street Number *

Street Name *

PO Box

City/Town/Reserve Name *

Province *

Postal Code *

Phone number of parent, guardian or student *

Email address of parent, guardian or student

Name of school the student intends to attend *

Intended admission date (yyyy/mm/dd) *

I hereby consent to the release of the above-named student's Ontario Student Record to the above-named school.

I hereby consent to the release of the above-named student's attendance records to the above-named school.

4. Consent and Notice of Collection of Personal Information

By signing below, you are providing consent to the _____
Insert the name of school board *

for the indirect collection of personal information from

Insert the name of the: band; council of a band; education authority that is authorized by a band or council of a band; education authority that is authorized by the Crown in Right of Canada; or the Crown in Right of Canada *

The school board collects the information in this form directly from you and will indirectly collect the personal information identified in the Written Notice for Eligible Students Attending a School of a School Board form or the Written Notice for Eligible Students Attending an Eligible School form, as the case may be, from the entity named above. This includes:

- Student's name, date of birth, and Ontario Education Number
- Student's address and contact information
- Parent or guardian's name, address, and contact information
- Student's intended admission date and school
- Student's eligibility for the Reciprocal Education Approach (i.e. under sections 185 and 188 of the *Education Act*)
- Student's credit count or grade
- Student's special education supports needed, if applicable, including exceptionalities and Individual Education Plan
- Student's attendance records and Ontario Student Record

This personal information is being collected in accordance with subsection 28(2) of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and pursuant to sections 185 and 188 of the *Education Act*.

The school board will use this personal information for the purposes of administering the Reciprocal Education Approach, including:

- Determining eligibility to attend a First Nation school or school of a school board under sections 185 or 188 of the *Education Act*, as the case may be.
- Providing funding to an entity that operates a First Nation school.
- Determining the fees that would be charged to an entity that provides written notice in respect of a First Nation student attending a school of the school board.
- Processing payments to be paid to an entity operating a First Nation school or for payments to be charged to an entity that provides written notice in respect of a First Nation student attending a school of the school board.

The school board may also disclose this personal information to the Ministry of Education, as required under paragraph 27.1 of subsection 8(1) or subsection 8.1(5) of the *Education Act*.

To be completed by the school board:

Officer or Employee of the school board who can answer the individual's questions about the collection

Title

Business address

Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	PO Box
City/Town		Province	Postal Code
Business Telephone Number	Fax Number	Email Address	

5. Signature

I have read and understood all parts of this written notice, including the Consent and Notice of Collection of Personal Information section, above, and my signature attests to my consent to the indirect collection, use and disclosure of my or my child's personal information and that the information in this notice is complete and true. If indicated above, I also consent to the release of the above-named student's attendance records and/or Ontario Student Record to the above-named school.

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Student ³ *

Date (yyyy/mm/dd) *

Signature of Student ³ *

Date (yyyy/mm/dd) *

¹ Guardian means a person defined in section 18 of the *Education Act*. This is either a legal guardian (other than a parent), or anyone who has received into their care or residence, a person of compulsory school age.

² The student may provide written notice if they are 16 or 17 and have withdrawn from their parental control or are 18 years of age or older.

³ If the student is 16 or 17 years of age, the consent of both the parent/guardian and the student is required for the school board's indirect collection of personal information. If the student is 16 or 17 years of age and has withdrawn from parental control, or if the student is 18 years of age or older, the consent of the student is required for the school board's indirect collection of the student's personal information.

Appendix D - RECIPROCAL EDUCATION APPROACH (REA) – STUDENT ENROLMENT LIST

1. INSTRUCTIONS

There are 4 sections in this template:

- **Section A - Contact Information for Receiving Organization (Sheet 1)**
 - Please provide relevant contact information for the First Nation entity or school board receiving the student list.
- **Section B - Payee Contact and Payment Information (Sheet 1)**
 - Please provide relevant contact and payment information for the First Nation entity or school board providing the student list.
- **Section C – Attestation (Sheet 1)**
 - Attestation by the First Nation entity or school board confirming that the information provided accurately reflects that students are active pupils as at the count date (October 31 or March 31).
- **Section D - Student List (Sheet 2)**
 - This section includes required fields for individual student information as outlined in the REA Instructions for First Nations and School Boards.

Please refer to:

- **Section C of the REA Instructions Guide for more details on the submission requirements for First Nation entities**
- **Section H of the REA Instructions Guide for more details on the submission requirements for school boards**

Section A: Contact Information for Receiving Organization	
This information is being provided to	<i>Insert Name of Receiving Organization - First Nation entity or School Board</i>
Contact Name	
Contact Position	
Contact Email	
Contact Phone	

Section B: Payee Contact and Payment information	
Name of Organization (First Nation Entity or School Board)	
Contact Information	
Contact Name	
Contact Position	
Contact Email	
Contact Phone	
Payment Information	
Name of Payee	
Account Number	
Name of Bank	
Bank/Branch Address	

Section C: Attestation
Attention: Data must be entered in Section D: Student List (sheet 2) prior to attesting
<input type="checkbox"/> By checking off this box, _____ [insert name and title of signatory] _____ confirms that the student information contained in this form is a true and accurate representation of students' active status as at the count date (October 31 or March 31).

